

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
FOODS FOR WELFARE PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of wheat, rice, pulses and other crops has shown declining trend in the current year as compared to the previous year;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether this decline has affected Government's welfare schemes, food-for-work programme and Public Distribution System (PDS) also;
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to manage its welfare programme and PDS in the absence of sufficient foodgrain production; and
- (e) the steps taken to remove the causes of less production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b) : The production of wheat, rice, pulses, total oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane and jute & mesta for the year 2004-05 and 2003-04 are shown below:
(million tonnes)

Crop	2004-05	#	2003-04	Wheat	72.00	72.11	Rice	85.31	88.28	Pulses	13.38	14.94	Oilseeds	26.10	25.29	Cotton	#	17.00	13.87
Sugarcane	232.32		237.31	Jute & Mesta	##	10.49	11.23												

4th Advance estimates as on 06.07.05
Million bales of 170 kgs. each
Million bales of 180 kgs. each

The low production level in 2004-05 was due to deficient rainfall received during the southwest monsoon. Compared to 2003, the southwest monsoon in 2004 was erratic with prolonged weak/break monsoon conditions prevailing during late June, most of July, late August and early September over different parts of the country. For the country as a whole, the seasonal rainfall from 1st June to 30th September was 87% of its long period average (LPA) in 2004.

(c) & (d): The Government has adequate stocks foodgrains to meet the requirements of various States/UTs under TPDS and Welfare Schemes.

(e): The programmes aimed at boosting production and productivity of foodgrains include the following:-

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas

(ICDP-Rice)

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas

(ICDP-Wheat).

(iii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

From October 2000, these schemes have been subsumed under Macro Management Programme with a view to provide flexibility according to regionally differentiated needs of the States.

A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'On Farm Water Management for increasing Crop Production in Eastern India' was launched

from 2002-03. The objective of the scheme is to increase production & productivity of crops through exploiting abundant ground/surface water, in the Eastern India. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for

(i) installation of shallow tube wells (STW) with pumping sets,

(ii) electric/diesel water pumping sets,

(iii) Low Lift Irrigation Points (LIP), and

(iv) dug wells in hills and plateau regions. The scheme is being implemented in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is a back-ended credit linked one and is being implemented through the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

As regards pulses, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of seed minikits etc. under the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) launched in April 2004.